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Attorneys for Defendants
HANSEN LAW FIRM, P.C., STEPHEN HOLMES, and CRAIG HANSEN

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ABRAHAM ABITTAN, RACHEL
ABITTAN, BRIAN ABITTAN, JACOB
ABITTAN, ALYSSA PORTAL, ELIANA
ABITTAN, ROY GRABER, and TOVA
GRABER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

HANSEN LAW FIRM, P.C., CRAIG
HANSEN, STEPHEN HOLMES, SAC
ATTORNEYS LLP, JAMES CAI, BRIAN
BARNHORST, PATRICK
O'SHAUGNESSY, YE & ASSOCIATES,
PLLC, JINGJING YE, and DOES 1-20,
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:25-cv-5427SVK

**DECLARATION OF STEPHEN
HOLMES IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANTS HANSEN LAW FIRM,
P.C., STEPHEN HOLMES, AND
CRAIG HANSEN'S SPECIAL
MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFFS'
COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO
FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE 12(B)(6) AND
CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE SECTION 425.16**

Date: December 2, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: 6
Magistrate Judge Susan Van Keulen

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1 I, Stephen Holmes, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice before this Court. I am an attorney with
3 Hansen Law Firm, P.C., former counsel for Yuting Chen (“Chen”) in the underlying action
4 entitled, *Chen v. Abittan, et al.*, Case No. 4:21-cv-09393 (N.D. Cal.) (the “Underlying Action”).

5 2. This declaration is submitted in support of Defendants Hansen Law Firm, p.c.,
6 Stephen Holmes, and Craig Hansen’s Special Motion to Strike Plaintiffs’ Complaint Pursuant to
7 FRCP 12(b)(6) and California CCP § 425.16. The following facts are within my personal
8 knowledge and, if called as a witness herein, I can and will competently testify thereto.

9 3. At the time of my and my law firm’s substitution out of the Underlying Action,
10 neither I nor, to my knowledge, my law firm, received any evidence, formally or informally, from
11 Plaintiffs’ counsel in the Underlying Action that my (now former) client’s causes of action against
12 Plaintiffs lacked merit or probable cause. Nor did I receive evidence, formally or informally, from
13 any other source that my (now former) client’s causes of action against Plaintiffs lacked merit or
14 probable cause.

15 4. The declarations by Plaintiffs attached to their amended answer in the Underlying
16 Action did not eliminate probable cause to maintain my (now former) client, Chen’s, claims
17 against Plaintiffs (defendants in the Underlying Action).

18 5. While my firm and I represented Chen in the Underlying Action, at no time did I
19 believe that my (now former) client’s claims in the complaint lacked probable cause.

20 6. During my and my firm’s representation of Chen in the Underlying Action, I did
21 not know any of Plaintiffs personally nor did I have any kind of personal relationship with any of
22 the Plaintiffs.

23 7. During my and my firm’s representation of Chen in the Underlying Action, at no
24 point did I harbor any ill will, hostility, or malice towards Plaintiffs.

25 8. My firm did not initiate the Underlying Action on behalf of Chen based primarily
26 on hostility or ill will.

27 9. My firm did not file the complaint on behalf of Chen nor maintain the action solely
28 to deprive Plaintiffs of a beneficial use of property.

Executed on October 17, 2025.

Signed by: Stephen Holmes
By: Stephen Holmes
BIDA33936011485...

PROOF OF SERVICE

Abittan, Abraham v. Hansen Law Firm, PC, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 5:25-cv-5427

At the time of service I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am employed by Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP in the County of San Francisco, State of California. My business address is 655 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, California 94111. My business Facsimile number is (415) 434-1370. On this date I served the following document(s):

DECLARATION OF STEPHEN HOLMES IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS HANSEN LAW FIRM, P.C., STEPHEN HOLMES, AND CRAIG HANSEN'S SPECIAL MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT

on the person or persons listed below, through their respective attorneys of record in this action, by placing true copies thereof in sealed envelopes or packages addressed as shown below by the following means of service:

☒: By E-Service in conjunction with E-Filing the document(s) listed above through the Court's CM/ECF system, which effects electronic service on counsel and parties who are registered with the CM/ECF system.

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

EXECUTED on October 17, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ Peter Catalanotti
Peter Catalanotti

SERVICE LIST

Abittan, Abraham v. Hansen Law Firm, PC, et al.
 United States District Court Case No. 5:25-cv-5427

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